

The Ballarat Naturalist



Victorian Waterfalls

Ian Wacey and Ray Barber

The book, *250 Victorian Waterfalls* by Ian Wacey and Ray Barber was the prompt for the talk at the May 2012 meeting. Ian, supported by his brother-in-law, Ray provided a beautifully illustrated presentation of the journey involved in the creation of the book and of their enthusiasm for documenting the waterfalls of Victoria.

Whilst the book documents 250 falls, Ian said that their research and exploring had identified over 700 and that in producing the book 350 had been visited, photographed and their GPS co-ordinates recorded.

Ian explained that his interest in waterfalls started as a boy when on a fishing trip to the Aire River. His father suggested he explore upstream and find the falls. At the time he didn't locate them but now a picture of Hopetoun Falls graces the front cover of the book. When he decided to explore waterfalls he discovered there wasn't a book to help. When looking in the library he was provided with two sheets of paper attributed to the State Rivers which had 70 falls. Initially thinking there might be about 100 falls the task soon grew.

Ian illustrated the effort needed to collect data and take photographs for the book by showing images of many of the falls visited including a number which are not in the book. Adventures and mishaps along the way gave a lot of human interest to the story of the years involved before the book was printed. To see the falls there were walks through lovely scenery and mention was made of wildlife observations including lyrebirds, koalas and dingos. We were privileged to see pictures of some of the falls.

In researching falls it became apparent that there were errors and omissions in the names and information about falls. There are 169 falls in the Victorian Place names register, some with anomalies and other falls that Ray and Ian considered significant were not named. As well as

Subscriptions are now due

Should you wish to pay your membership at a bank or online, our bank details are Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat Inc. Bendigo Bank BSB 633 108, Account no. 1191 12290.



Please remember to add your name.

Ordinary member	\$35	Family	\$55
Distant member	\$15	Student	\$15
Newsletter postage (Ordinary member) \$7			

producing the book, Ray and Ian have contributed significantly to updating recorded information about falls. In some cases there appeared to be transcription errors when the names of falls were recorded. For instance *Gunbower Falls* was recorded as *Glenbower Falls*. Other falls which were well known like *Stevensons Falls* in the Otways were not registered. As well as making submissions to correct these anomalies, Ray and Ian have suggested names for some unnamed falls, researching local history to come up with suitable names.

Ian and Ray's book will be a valuable resource when travelling the Victorian countryside. The description associated with each fall in the book includes information about the source of the water, a GPS accurate map location for the falls as well as a description of its location and importantly the walk required to see the falls. There is also a section on the origin of the name and, for those who think walks too long or for falls in a part of Victoria not visited, there is at least one photograph.

Ian and Ray were keen that copies of their book become well worn and be used to discover more about falls but it must be said that the book is also interesting to just look at. Lets hope those members who made a purchase, make good use of the efforts of Ian and Ray to promote this aspect of geography. Their time and effort in putting together the book and coming to tell us about it was sincerely appreciated.

Peter Dalman

FNCB 2012 Camp - Star of the Sea, Apollo Bay

Payment required by July meeting

10 beds have been booked and deposit paid for the weekend of July 13-15 Vacate Sun. 10 am. Cost is \$40 per adult, secondary school students, \$15 and younger children free. Need to bring towels and bed linen.

Wombat Forest Excursion - May 2012

Seventeen people gathered outside the Spargo Creek Hotel on the edge of Wombat Forest. We met our leaders, Gayle and Murray from Wombat Forestcare. After our footwear was disinfected, so as not to carry disease into the forest, we set off into the forest.

Our first stop was at a patch of Wombat Leafless Bossiaea *Bossiaea vom-*



bata. The plant was first found by staff from the Herbarium. When Wombat Forestcare began searching they found a different clump and have since found a total of 7 populations. The patch we looked at was about 8 metres square with new plants suckering on the edge – the whole clump may genetically be one plant. The plants were about 1 metre high and leafless –photosynthesis is carried out by flattened stems known as *cladodes*.

Photo: Wombat Leafless Bossiaea Bossiaea vomkata

Flowers develop along the edges of the cladodes; different clumps may have different coloured flowers ranging through white, yellow and orange. The plants flower and set seed but the seed produced has very low viability. The clump we saw had two flowers just developing from the buds. All the clumps found so far are in areas with similar over-storey of mixed species including Candlebark, Messmate and Peppermint. The Wombat Leafless Bossiaea may have originally occurred on the fertile volcanic soils which have been extensively developed for agriculture.

Other plants seen nearby were Gorse Bitter-pea* *Daviesia ulicifolia*, Hop Wattle *Acacia stricta*, Narrow-leaf Wattle *A mucronata*, Wombat Bush-pea *Pultenea reflexifolia* (another endemic plant), Austral Indigo *Indigofera australia*, and Common Heath* *Epacaris impressa* (* denotes flowering). On a short walk through the bush we found a variety of fungi including *Rusella sp*, Coral Fungus, Yellow Jelly, Bracket, Prettymouth and Ghost Fungus.

Photo: Common Prettymouth *Calostoma fuscus*

The Prettymouth, probably Common Prettymouth *Calostoma fuscum*, is a stalked puff-ball which puffed out a cloud of white spores when tapped.

Near the Werribee River we looked at an area of Herb-rich Foothill Forest. The understorey was dominated by *Poa*, Spiny Lomandra *Lomandra longifolia*. Victorian Christmas Bush *Prostanthera lasianthos*, Twining Glycine *Glycine clandestina* and Bushman's Bootlace *Pimelea axiflora*. In this area 30 of 1 hectare plots (250 x 40 metres) have been



set up and surveyed for 6 years by Wombat Forestcare and Authur Rylah Institute staff. The most significant find during spotlight surveys has been the Greater Glider. This glider can glide up to 100 metres, feeds on eucalypt leaves and lives in tree hollows.

Wombat Forestcare is using several motion-sensing cameras in various areas of the Wombat. Brush-tailed Phascogales have recently been found in the southern section of the forest. Day time photographs have recorded the ground-foraging Spotted Quail-thrush in an area of long unburnt forest.

After lunch alongside Farm Road we walked along a drainage to the western edge of the forest.

Several clumps of *Bossiea vombata* were spread over an area of about 50m on the edge of the forest. It is speculated that these may be one plant. None of the clumps set seed. Other plants in this area were Screw Fern *Lindsaea linearis*, Prickfoot *Eryngium vesiculosum*, Slender Dodder-laurel *Cassytha glabella* and Wiry Bossiaea *Bossiaea cordigera*. We observed several patches where wild pigs had rooted up the earth and vegetation.

Returning to the cars Gayle showed photos of Dwarf Silver Wattle *Acacia nano-dealbata*. This is a smaller tree than *A. dealbata* with more closely packed leaflets and slightly greener in colour. We thanked Gayle and headed homewards.

On the return journey to Ballarat we stopped at the Moorabool Reservoir to inspect the CHW house which will be the venue for FNCB 60th birthday celebration in November. In the grounds of the reservoir we saw more birds than seen during the rest of the day. Crimson Rosella, Grey

Fantail, New Holland Honeyeaters and White-browed Scrubwren were flitting around the trees and shrubs. On the concrete spillway Yellow-rumped Thornbill were feeding on low vegetation and a female Flame Robin perched on surrounding vantage points.

John Gregurke
Photos: Carol Hall

Carol's April observations at Lake Wendouree

During April, along with others Carol Hall observed up to 7 male and female Darters at Lake Wendouree. Often they have roosted atop the tallest trees on the two willow islands. A favourite place for drying wings is the island in the lagoon next to Piper's café, in the reeds on fallen branches around a metre above the water and on Lukey's pontoon. Carol was able to approach a very pale juvenile to within 3m on Yuille Island – fearless youth!

Also Carol Hall witnessed flocks of around 60 Little Black Cormorants co-operatively fishing on Lake Wendouree. They would swim as a flotilla in one direction, diving and resurfacing to eat their catch; some further back would fly to the front of the group and continue. When presented with the obstacle of a willow island they turned round and retraced their path. When this activity occurred, Silver Gulls would hang around overhead, hoping to pick up a loosely held or dropped fish.

Mid April, Carol found Yellow-rumped Thornbills in the bushes by the Judge's hut at the end of the rowing course, and with few leaves left on the branches, was easily able to photograph them. A Great Egret in early morning sunlight on the silt trap pond provided another good photo opportunity.



Fungi Foray.

Sunday 24th. 10:15am from carpark at Garden of St Erth, Blackwood.

Hosted by the *Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, Fungi Group.*

Contact: Les Hanrahan.

Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat Incorporated

No. A0014919P

ABN 13 150 403 135

May Club Minutes of the meeting held on Fri May 4th 2012

at the Primary Industries Training Centre

1. Opening and Apologies.

Attendance: The President, Peter Dalman, welcomed 22 members & visitors, including John & Alison Williams from UK. (members 5 years ago when working here).

Apologies : M Sorrell, J Morrish, A Pilmore, E Gregurke, D Brooke, J Petheram, L Powell, Genny Binns, L Hanrahan.

That the apologies be accepted *Moved: Bill Murphy Seconded: Peter Billing. Carried.*

2. Minutes of previous meeting: *Moved: Ken Hammond Seconded: Joyce Cuttle. Carried.*

3. Correspondence.

- * **IN:** Newsletters from Geelong, Castlemaine, Melbourne, Victorian Landcare, Corangamite Landcare, Ballarat West Growth Area
- * Bendigo Bank Statement & Chequebook, Subs from M Rotheram
- * UB invoice for Room Hire
- * Newsletter: Planning for the Environment Victoria: Appeal for donations to fight various causes.

OUT: nil

That the correspondence be accepted: *Moved: Claire Dalman Seconded: Jacki Metcalf. Carried.*

4. Business Arising from Correspondence: nil

5. Reports

Treasurer's Report: Opening balance \$4872.52 Income \$299 Expenses: \$1000.94 Closing balance: \$4872.52

Moved: John Gregurke Seconded: Claire Dalman. Carried.

6. General Business

- * Booking of Star Of the Sea, Apollo Bay for club camp, nights of July 13, 14, 15. \$40 ppn, shared ensuite. Expressions of interest invited.
- * Reminder: Subscriptions due.
- * Joint statement re Victorian Native Vegetation Rules expressing concern about the State Govt's proposed **review of the Native Vegetation Management Framework** – which needs to be strengthened not weakened – It was recommended to the meeting and

committee had agreed, that we should add our name to the list of organisations appearing on the letter. *Moved Ken Hammond, seconded Jacki Metcalf. Carried.* Elspeth will follow up on how to do this.

- * No response from council re Arbor Day & Victoria Park on Wed 23 May so perhaps you can just arrive!
- * Elizabeth Thurgood has arranged for us to visit the newly discovered *E. pyreneae* with the owner of Eurabbie Winery on March 3rd 2013.
- * We have arranged to share our cupboards with Birdlife Ballarat to provide room for their name tags, etc. and to combine our crockery.

7. Show & Tell/Field Reports

- * Dulcie Brooke sent in a guide to Eucalypts of Tasmania.
- * Douglas Menon has been studying botanical art and brought in his work on eucalypts, executed in watercolour pencils; they were much admired.
- * Wendouree, early May, Ken Hammond saw a pair of Crested Pigeons.
- * At Mt Beckworth, April 22 John Gregurke found Parson's Bands orchids; on the 27th April Cranberry Heath & Pink Bells flowering at Long Point Reserve.
- * In Lydiard St, May 2 Ballarat, Peter Billing saw white cockatoos.
- * On 28th May Gavin Cerini saw 2 Brolgas at Mooramong, 5 at Lake Widderin and 2 at Kooraweera Lake.
- * On 19 April Dalmans & Williams saw 5 Bassian Thrushes at Marriners Falls and the caravan park, Apollo Bay.
- * On March 31 Alison and John Williams saw a Tawny Frogmouth in Blackberry Lane, Buninyong.
- * During April John Mildren, Carol Hall and others have observed up to 7 male and female Darters at Lake Wendouree. (See also page 5)

8. Excursion Arrangements

Sunday 6th May Wombat Forest: Lead by Murray Ralph & Gayle Osbourne: “

9. Syllabus Item

Waterfalls of Victoria Ian Wacey & his brother-in-law Ray; Ian and Ray were thanked by Peter Dalman and presented with gifts.

10. Supper

CALENDAR 2012

JUNE

Fri 1 *Fungi* Geoff Lay Field Naturalist .

****Sat 2** *Fungi* Venue to be announced Geoff Lay

JULY

Fri 6 *Members' night* Presentations by Elspeth Swan and Val Hocking

Sun 8 *Werribee Gorge* Friends of Werribee Gorge

Tues 26 7.30 pm Committee meeting at Fran's

Committee

President..... Peter Dalman

Vice –President Fran Hanrahan

Secretary..... Carol Hall

Treasurer Les Hanrahan

Claire Dalman..... Val Hocking

John Gregurke..... John Mildren

Elspeth Swan

Correspondence: PO Box 328W, Ballarat West, 3350

Email:Secretary:- Carol Hall,

Editors: Nina Netherway,

Fran Hanrahan

Website: <http://fieldnatballarat.wordpress.com>

Meetings are held at the Primary Industries Training Centre, cnr Gillies and Gregory Sts, on the first Friday of the month at 7.30pm..

Excursions: Leave from the carpark at the Primary Industries Training Centre, cnr Gillies and Gregory Sts. at 9.30 am, unless otherwise advised.

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